

**REMARKS**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21854-00019-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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(54) Title: BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER

(57) Abstract

A biodegradable polymer is disclosed having the composition g) from 8 to 80 % by weight of a starch modified to include an hydroxyalkyl C<sub>2-6</sub> group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid, preferably hydroxypropylated high amylose starch, a) from 0 to 87.9 % of starch, b) from 4 to 11 % by weight of a water soluble polymer selected from polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinylalcohol which have a melting point compatible with the molten state of the starch components, c) from 0 to 20 % by weight of a polyol plasticiser, preferably glycerol, d) from 0.1 to 1.5 % by weight of a C<sub>12-22</sub> fatty acid or salt, preferably stearic acid and, e) 0 to 12 % added water. The polymers are suitable as biodegradable rigid sheet or flexible film materials for use in packaging foodstuffs.